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PRESS RELEASE NO. 20/76

Joint Statement from Managing Director, IMF and President, World Bank Group

March 2, 2020

“The IMF and the World Bank Group stand ready to help our member countries address the human tragedy and economic challenge posed by the COVID-19 virus. We are engaged actively with international institutions and country authorities, with special attention to poor countries where health systems are the weakest and people are most vulnerable.

We will use our [available instruments \(https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2020/02/28/how-the-imf-can-help-countries-address-the-economic-impact-of-coronavirus\)](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2020/02/28/how-the-imf-can-help-countries-address-the-economic-impact-of-coronavirus) to the fullest extent possible, including emergency financing, policy advice, and technical assistance. In particular, we have rapid financing facilities that, collectively, can help countries respond to a wide range of needs. The strengthening of country health surveillance and response systems is crucial to contain the spread of this and any future outbreaks.

International cooperation is essential to deal with the health and economic impact of the COVID-19 virus. The IMF and the World Bank Group are fully committed to provide the support that people in our member countries expect from us.”

Kristalina Georgieva and David Malpass.

MEDIA RELATIONS

PRESS OFFICER: DAVID THEIS FOR WORLD BANK, ALISTAIR THOMSON FOR IMF

PHONE: +1 202 623-7100 | **EMAIL:** DTHEIS@WORLDBANKGROUP.ORG ([MAILTO:DTHEIS@WORLDBANKGROUP.ORG](mailto:DTHEIS@WORLDBANKGROUP.ORG)) MEDIA@IMF.ORG ([MAILTO:MEDIA@IMF.ORG](mailto:MEDIA@IMF.ORG))

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